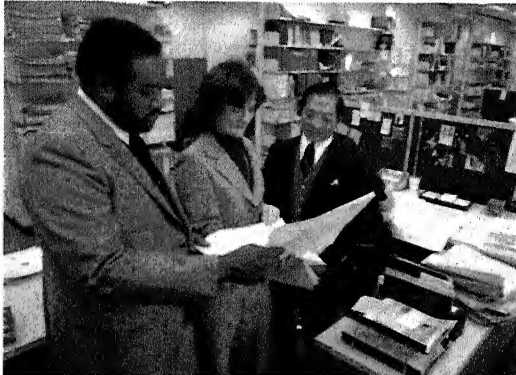
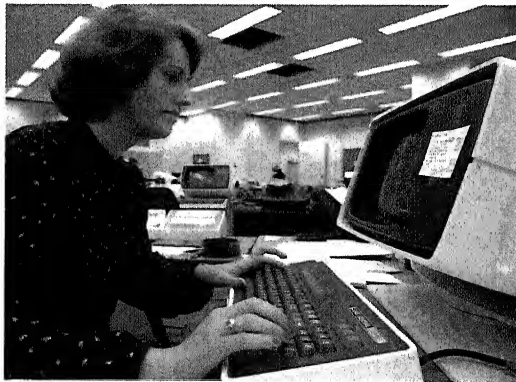




CONGRESSIONAL  
RESEARCH SERVICE  
THE INFORMATION ARM  
OF THE U.S. CONGRESS





## Mission

The mission of the Congressional Research Service, as mandated by law in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (2 U.S.C. 166), is to provide Congress with analytical research and reference assistance, without partisan bias, in support of its legislative, oversight, and representative functions. CRS does not perform work for the executive or judicial branches of the Federal government nor directly for the public.

## History

In July of 1914, more than a century after the Library of Congress was established (on April 24, 1800), a Legislative Reference Service was created within the Library to provide specialized services to "Congress and committees and Members thereof."

In 1946, the Service was given permanent status as



a separate department of the Library and directed to employ "specialists" to cover several broad subject areas. By this time, the number of Library staff working exclusively on the reference and research requests of Members and committees of Congress had grown from the one librarian appointed in 1800 to 131.

Finally, in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, its name was changed to the Congressional Research Service; it was given greater administrative and fiscal independence, making it more directly accountable to the Congress; and it was mandated to enhance its analytical research capabilities with the addition of "senior specialists" and with heavier emphasis on research support to the committees of Congress.

## Organization

CRS is organized into seven research divisions, two library information divisions, and several specialized



offices. The research divisions are American Law, Economics, Education and Public Welfare, Environment and Natural Resources Policy, Foreign Affairs and National Defense, Government, and Science Policy Research. The reference and library information divisions are Congressional Reference and Library Services.

The specialized offices include Assignment, Reference, and Special Services; Automated Information Services; Management and Administrative Services; Member and Committee Relations; Policy, Planning, and Review; Research, Analysis, and Multidisciplinary Programs; Senior Specialists; and the Director's Office.

## Staff

The staff of CRS numbers about 860. Highly educated and trained, employees are hired, retained, and promoted on the basis of merit and accomplishment. The 614 professionals are extremely diverse, including



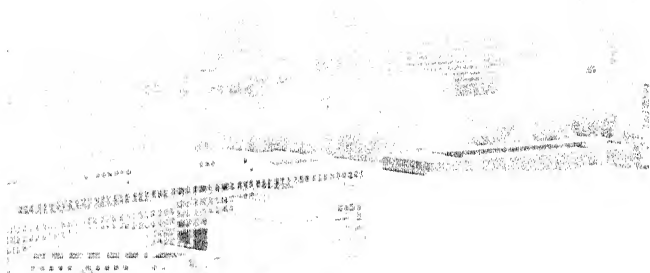
— among others — attorneys, economists, engineers, information scientists, librarians, defense and foreign affairs analysts, political scientists, public administrators, and physical and behavioral scientists. The highest level researchers are Senior Specialists, many with national and some with international recognition in their fields. About 535 people are employed in the research divisions, 185 in the reference and library information divisions, and 140 in the various administrative and support offices.

## Services

CRS serves all of the Members, all of the committees and subcommittees, and all of the staff of Congress. The essential characteristics of all CRS work are accuracy, objectivity, and nonpartisanship; timeliness, responsiveness, and confidentiality.

The services range from in-depth policy analyses,



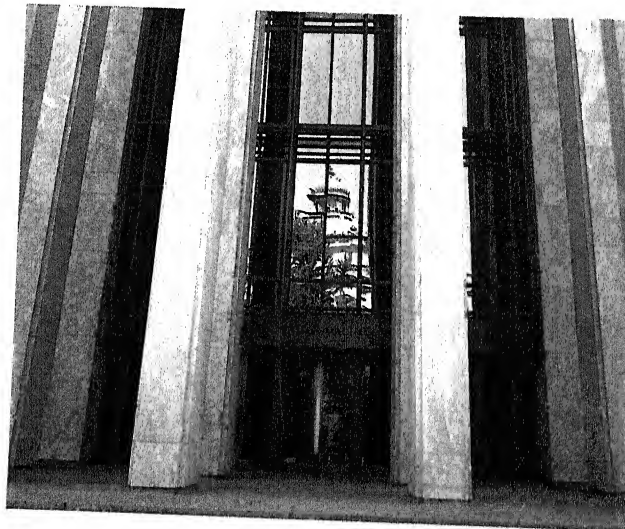




legal research and legislative histories, and tailored research—to be used, for instance, for Members' floor statements—to basic factual information services: statistics, biographies, quotations; books, articles, reports, and studies; general background information on a subject; and bibliographies. They include the use of a broad array of automated information resources, both governmental and commercial; other specialized services include translations. Finally, they may take the form of audio or audiovisual formats as well as oral presentations in individualized briefings or in seminars and workshops.

## Facilities

The Service is primarily located in the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress, located on Capitol Hill. CRS also maintains reader service facilities in the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building and in four congressional office buildings—one for the Senate and three for the House.



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